

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 W

----- 000131

R 061155Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS --NEW AMBASSADOR TO DAMASCUS

1. AMBASSADOR GAMAL MANSUR, MFA UNDERSECRETARY, HAS CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HE WILL BE NEW AMBASSADOR TO DAMASCUS. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AGREEMENT. GAMAL IS OBVIOUSLY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT NEW POSITNG BUT IS LONG-TIME CAREER DIPLOMAT AND RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF HIS MISSION. WE EXPECT THAT PRESIDENT AND FAHMY WILL WANT HIM TO DEPART AS SOON AS AGREEMENT IS RECEIVED. HIS FAMILY WILL PROBABLY NOT JOIN HIM UNITL LATER.

2. ON NOV 1, DEPPRIMIN/MINWAR GENERAL GAMASY REMARKED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY NOTIFIED BY PRESIDENT ASAD THAT SARG WISHED HIM TO BE COMMANDER OF JOINT EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN COMMAND. GAMASY DID NOT ASCRIBE ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO DELAY, SAYING ONLY THAT IT WAS MATTER FOR PRESIDENT TO
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WORK OUT WITH ASAD. GAMASY SAID HE DID

NOT EXPECT NEW COMMAND TO ENTAIL MUCH WORK, BUT
THAT IT WAS "GOOD SHOW."

3. PRESS CRITICISM OF SYRIA HAS VIRTUALLY
DISAPPEARED SINCE RIYADH SUMMIT. ON OCT 18,
PAO OVERHEARD AHARAM BOARD CHAIRMAN YUSUF AL-SIBA'I
DISCUSSING PRESS TREATMENT OF SYRIA WITH ONE OF HIS
EDITORS. SIBA'I HAD REPRIMANDED EDITOR FOR ANTI-
SYRIAN STORY THAT APPEARED IN AHARAM THAT DAY,
SAYING THAT PRESS POLICY SHOULD NOW REFLECT MORE
POSITIVE PICTURE OF SYRIAN ACTIONS. EDITOR CLAIMED
HE WAS NOT AWARE OF INSTRUCTIONS BUT PROMISED TO
CARRY THEM OUT IN FUTURE.

4. BIO DATA ON GAMAL MANSUR BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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